

STATISTICS ON PRIOR ART CITATIONS FOR U.S. COMPUTING PATENTS

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For the 1976 to 2001 time period, I offer eight columns of data, all calculated using the PTO Bibliographic Green Book data. By "**Comp Pats**", I mean computing patents from 21 PTO classes from the last 26 years (such as 235, 364, 395, 700s, etc.). "**Numb UREF**" is the average number of references to prior U.S. patents. "**Numb OREF**" is the average number of non-patent prior art references. "**Perc ZREF**" is the average number of patents citing ZERO non-patent prior art items (which is ludicrous for computing patents in light of ACM/IEEE/SPIE publications).

"**Pend**" is the pendency in months (with some accounting for CIPs, etc.). "**Claims**" is the average number of claims. "**Perc Corp**" is the percentage of patents issued to corporations. "**Percent Jepson**" is the percentage of patents using the Jepson format "... the improvement comprising ..." for all issued patents.

Year	Comp Pats	Numb UREF	Numb OREF	Perc ZREF	Pend	Claims	Perc Corp	Percnt Jepson
2001	17070	13.5	1.6	61	35.1	20.3	95.7	2.4
2000	15743	12.4	1.4	65	33.3	20.3	95.5	3.0
1999	16581	11.4	1.3	66	31.1	19.3	95.4	2.8
1998	15606	11.4	1.3	66	29.8	18.4	95.5	3.1
1997	9250	10.9	1.2	63	29.0	17.4	95.0	3.7
1996	8859	10.3	1.2	63	26.8	16.3	95.2	4.1
1995	6789	9.5	1.1	64	26.2	15.3	94.6	4.6
1994	6117	8.8	1.0	66	27.6	14.9	94.8	5.3
1993	4938	8.6	0.9	67	28.5	14.7	94.8	5.8
1992	3846	9.1	0.8	69	28.3	14.2	94.5	6.6
1991	3624	8.1	0.8	72	26.1	13.6	94.1	7.2
1990	3373	8.3	0.7	73	25.7	13.7	94.3	7.8
1989	3780	8.3	0.8	72	27.3	13.7	93.7	8.4
1988	2646	7.4	0.6	74	29.3	12.1	93.7	9.2
1987	2463	7.4	0.5	78	30.9	12.4	93.8	9.6
1986	2030	7.5	0.5	79	32.6	12.3	93.3	10.5
1985	1915	7.5	0.4	80	32.1	12.4	93.1	11.1
1984	1636	7.3	0.4	83	32.6	11.9	92.0	11.9
1983	1234	7.0	0.3	85	32.5	12.0	92.7	13.1
1982	1206	7.0	0.3	85	30.0	12.7	89.1	14.1
1981	1102	7.1	0.2	88	27.3	12.4	90.2	14.4
1980	1050	6.8	0.2	91	27.2	12.6	90.6	14.5
1979	749	6.3	0.1	94	23.6	11.7	90.1	13.7
1978	986	5.9	0.0	97	21.5	12.7	90.2	13.7
1977	856	5.5	0.1	97	21.1	12.1	89.6	13.1
1976	657	5.1	0.1	96	21.4	12.0	86.3	12.8